

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, OECD

SUBJECT: IEA: LONG-TERM PROGRAM

REF: STATE 296836

FOR ENDERS FROM BOSWORTH

1. I HAVE DISCUSSED WITH DAVIGNON OUR PROPOSED SCENARIO FOR PUBLIC PRESENTATION OF IEA AGREEMENT ON LONG-TERM PROGRAM. HE SEES NO MAJOR PROBLEMS WITH IT AND INDICATED FULL COMPREHENSION OF REASONS FOR OUR SENSITIVITY. HE SAID HE WOULD, IN FACT, PREFER LOW-KEY PUBLIC PRESENTATION OF PROGRAM AT THIS POINT, GIVEN FACT CIEC CONFERENCE WILL HAVE JUST CONCLUDED. HE THINKS THIS GENERAL APPROACH ON PRESENTATION WILL GIVE COMFORT TO JAPANESE AND POSSIBLY OTHERS.

2. HE SUGGESTED WE COULD SIMPLY STATE PUBLICLY THAT WE HAVE REACHED FULL AGREEMENT AT GOVERNING BOARD LEVEL ON ALL ELEMENTS OF PROGRAM AND THAT WE WILL NOW CHECK IT OUT WITH GOVERNMENTS BEFORE RETURNING IN JANUARY TO SIGN IT. THIS WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY FIRM AGREEMENT WITHIN GOVERNING BOARD THAT NEGOTIATIONS ARE OVER AND THAT NEXT EVENT IS TO FORMALIZE OUR AGREEMENT IN
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JANUARY. HE POINTED OUT THIS WOULD MEAN THAT, IF ASKED'

HE WOULD HAVE TO SAY THAT AGREEMENT INCLUDES LEVEL FOR MSP. ALTHOUGH WE COULD PERHAPS AVOID SAYING OFFICIALLY WHAT THAT LEVEL IS, I SUSPECT IT WOULD INEVITABLY LEAK. BUT DAVIGNON COULD PRESUMABLY AVOID SAYING ON 19TH WHAT THE LEVEL IS, STRESSING THAT IT IS PART OF INTERRELATED PACKAGE, ETC. THIS WOULD GET US THROUGH THIS WEEK INTO CHRISTMAS PERIOD WHEN PUBLIC INTEREST LIKELY TO BE LESS THAN ACUTE.

3. DAVIGNON WANTS TO AVOID ANY REFERENCE TO GIVING EC ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW MSP. I AGREE. THIS COULD GIVE FRENCH ANOTHER CPENING TO TRY TO CONSTRAIN THE EIGHT FROM MOVING AHEAD IN THE IEA UNTIL EC ENERGY POLICY AGREED IN DETAIL. THE LATTER PROCESS IS LIKELY TO ABSORB THE COMMUNITY THROUGH MOST OF 1976. EC COMMISSION HAS IN FACT INDICATED THEY ARE AT LEAST RECONCILED TO IEA LOCKING UP LONG-TERM PROGRAM WITH MSP THIS WEEK.

4. I WILL DISCUSS FURTHER WITH DAVIGNON SOME OF THE NUANCES OF THIS APPROACH DURING THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS. I THINK KEY POINT WILL BE TO AVOID SUCH A TENTATIVE CHARACTERIZATION OF AGREEMENT REACHED ON THE 19TH THAT WE EITHER CREATE SUSPICION THAT WE HAVE NOT IN FACT REACHED AGREEMENT OR CREATE RISK OF SUBSTANTIAL UNRAVELING IN JANUARY. ON OTHER HAND, IT CLEAR WE WANT TO AVOID PUBLICITY AND TO BE ABLE TO SAY LEGITIMATELY THAT WE STILL HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO CONSULT WITH CONGRESS BEFORE FORMALLY CONCLUDING NEGOTIATIONS. KATZ

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